

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 and 22-38 are pending in the present application. Claims 15-21 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13, 14, 22, 24, 25 and 27 are amended, and Claims 28-38 are added by the present amendment without introducing new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hikawa (U.S. Patent 6,678,065).

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge as considered the IDS filed August 21, 2000. A copy of that filed IDS, and of the filing receipt indicating its filing, is provided with the present response.

New Claims 28-38 are submitted herewith for consideration. New Claims 28-31 find support in original Claim 14, and new Claims 32-38 find support in original Claims 14-21, for example. No new matter is added.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hikawa, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the ground for rejection, Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13, 14, 22, 24, 25 and 27 are amended to clarify the subject matter of the present invention over Hikawa. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments have overcome the outstanding rejection for the following reasons.

Specifically, independent Claim 1 is amended to recite "... carrying out, in parallel, a process of one of an image reading function, an image recording function, an image copying function and an image communicating function, in response to a command that is accepted while carrying out a process of another of the image reading function, the image recording

function, the image copying function and the image communicating function ... automatically storing a file of the image data processed by said step (a) independently of processes of the image reading function, the image recording function, the image copying function and the image communicating function.” Similar changes are made to other independent Claims 7, 8 and 22.

With such features, it is possible to electronically file image data processed in an environment in which a plurality of kinds of functions can be carried out in parallel without requiring a user to be aware of such an electronic filing.<sup>1</sup>

On the contrary, Hikawa is believed to merely propose specifying a minimum amount of resources required for a job, and allocating the resources for the job depending on the minimum amount of resources required. When the required minimum amount of resources is secured, jobs are executed in parallel, and image data is stored independently of the jobs executed in parallel. Further, when a job is requested in a state in which a requested job already exists, a job control section 2 of Hikawa allocates resources based on a priority weighting of the jobs.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Hikawa fails to disclose or suggest the above claimed features and effects of the present invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 7, 8 and 22 and each of the claims depending therefrom are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the reference of record.

Moreover, independent Claim 14 is amended to recite, among other things, “... a control unit configured to control one of said image reading part, said image communicating part and said image recording part which is unused for the processing of the image data to process the image data in parallel, in response to a command which is received during processing of the image data to carry out at least one of a reading operation by said image

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<sup>1</sup> See page 5, lines 10-16, of the specification.

reading part, a recording operation by said image recording part, a transmitting operation by said image communicating part and a receiving operation by said image communicating part.” Similar changes are made to other independent Claim 25.

With such features, it is possible to electronically file image data processed in an environment in which a plurality of kinds of functions can be carried out in parallel without requiring a user to be aware of such an electronic filing.<sup>2</sup>

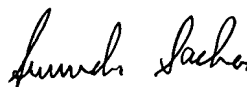
It is respectfully submitted that Hikawa fails to disclose or suggest the above claimed features and effects of the present invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 14 and 25 and each of the claims depending therefrom are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the reference of record.

Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 28-38 are also believed to be patentably distinguishable over the reference of record by virtue of their dependencies on Claim 14.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>2</sup> See page 8, lines 12-18, of the specification.